

16. WESTERNMOST RECORD OF THE BLACKFACED FLYCATCHER  
WARBLER *ABROSCOPUS SCHISTICEPS* IN GHARWAL

During a pilgrimage to Kedarnath and Badrinath, Shivraj Kumar and myself did a considerable amount of birdwatching along the pilgrim track. Between Gupta Kashi and Kedarnath (c. 79°E) the walk is through very pleasing country and a day's walk can reveal a number of typical middle altitude hill species. Watching a party of small birds among oak and rhododendron along the track we were struck by a pair of distinct but totally unidentifiable flycatcher warblers. They were among the more common, and to me very familiar Greyheaded Flycatcher Warbler *Seicercus xanthoschistos*

and what struck us was the black on either sides of the face contrasting with the yellow supercilium and forehead and yellow on the breast. I made a sketch on the spot which later helped me to identify the bird at once on seeing it in some illustrations which Dr Sálím Ali had given Shivraj Kumar. The birds were quite fearless and feeding in the lower branches of the trees beside the track at eye level. This record was in May, and our altitude could not have been more than 6,500'.

The western limit given in the HANDBOOK Vol. 8, p. 192, is Central Nepal.

C/o. WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-INDIA,  
HORNBILL HOUSE,  
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,  
BOMBAY 400 023,  
January 10, 1975.

LAVKUMAR J. KHACHER

17. RECORDS OF BIRDS FROM THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR  
ISLANDS

While working out a collection of birds from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands made by Dr. A. K. Mukherjee of this department in 1972, I came across five examples of two species of birds, namely *Charadrius alexandrinus* Linnaeus and *Tringa terek* (Latham), which add to the known distribution of the species.

*Charadrius alexandrinus* Linnaeus Kentish Plover

1 ♀; Malaka, Car Nicobar; 19 Feb. 1972.

The Kentish Plover was found in small numbers in company with other waders on the seashore. It often separated itself from the flocks while foraging. The specimen collected measures (mm): wing 107, tail 46, bill from skull

22, tarsus 27 and weighed 35 gm.

In winter, the Kentish Plover visits the Indian mainland over a wide area but there is no report of its occurrence in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Thus, the present specimen forms the first record of its occurrence in these islands.

*Tringa terek* (Latham) Terek Sandpiper  
4 ♀; Malaka, Car Nicobar; 17 Feb. 1972.

The Terek Sandpiper was found in flocks on the sandy shores of the Car Nicobar Island. All the collected specimens were in winter plumage. They had the central tail feathers moulting and had non-breeding gonads. The birds measure (in mm): wing 132, 135(3), tail 51,

52, 53, 54; bill from skull 51, 52, 53(2); tarsus 28, 29, 32(2), and they weighed 66, 64, 72, 70 gm.

Although the Terek Sandpiper is well known in the Andaman Islands, the only record of its occurrence in the Nicobars is based on a sight

record by Abdulali (1967, p. 161)<sup>1</sup> on Trinkut Island on 11 March.

These examples, therefore, serve as the first authentic collection of the species from the Nicobar group of Islands, thus extending its winter range further south.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
CALCUTTA 700 013,  
June 12, 1975.

J. M. DASGUPTA

<sup>1</sup> ABDULALI, H. (1967): The birds of the Nicobar Islands, with notes on some Andaman birds. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 64:139-190.

### 18. EGG LAYING OF THE MUGGER (*CROCODYLUS PALUSTRIS*) IN CAPTIVITY

The female of a pair of Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) at the Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa laid 27 eggs on the morning of 11-vi-1974. The eggs were white, hard shelled and blunt at both ends. Eleven of these measured 6.7-8.2 cm × 3.7-4.3 cm and weighed from 69 to 80 gm. Unfortunately the mother crocodile was found dead and floating in the tank on 13-vi-74. On autopsy six more eggs were collected from the posterior part of the oviduct. These white, hard shelled eggs measured 6.8-7.2 cm × 3.9-4.2 cm and weighed from 71 to 81 gm. The crocodile measured 142 cm from

snout to vent and 132 cm from vent to tip of the tail (Total length 274 cm). However all the eggs were found spoilt when examined after over 3 months of incubation in the sand hole. Probably all were infertile.

David (1970)<sup>1</sup> states that mating of this species takes place in December and January in the water and eggs are laid in March and April in Ahmedabad Zoo. He further states that one female has laid 28 eggs out of which 23 young hatched out on 6-vi-1969 in the same zoo.

VETERINARY ASSTT. SURGEON,  
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,  
P.O. BARANG, DIST. CUTTACK.

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May 5, 1975.

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<sup>1</sup> DAVID, REUBEN (1970): Breeding the Mugger Crocodile and Water Monitor—*Crocodylus palustris*

and *Varanus salvator* at Ahmedabad Zoo. *International Zoo Yearbook*, 10:116-117.